

School Immunization Requirements

Interpretation of immunization records for school entry can be confusing. The DPHHS Immunization Program wants to make this easier. To follow are some helpful guides along with a review of the Immunization Law Requirements for Montana Schools, as revised July 13, 2005. There reference for the following information is: School Immunization Rules; Section 16.28.702. The source is: The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Immunization Program 444-5580.

PLEASE NOTETHE BLUE IMMUNIZATION FORM--No. HES-101 MUST FOLLOW THE PUPIL FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL - -IT'S THE LAW--(PHOTO COPIES ARE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ON AN INTERIM BASIS)***

FOR SCHOOL ENTRY THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ARE

| VACCINE | TOTAL NUMBER | ADDITIONAL DOSE REQUIREMENTS |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Polio | 3 doses, and | At least 1 dose after the 4th birthday |
| DTP/DT/ DTaP/Td | 4 doses, and | One dose must be given after the 4th birthday |
| Td booster | 1 dose | Prior to entering the 7th grade a pupil must receive a dose of Td. This schedule applies to pupils who have completed the prior 4 doses listed above. (Starting 2006-07, and thereafter) |
| MMR | Dose 1 on or after the first birthday and dose 2 prior to kindergarten entry (1st grade in schools without kindergarten) | A pupil entering any grade from 7 to 12 who has not already received the 2 required doses at kindergarten age must receive the second dose. |

Polio: The primary series of polio vaccine (OPV or IPV), consists of three doses given at least 4 weeks (28 days) apart. The same dose requirements apply to both OPV and IPV or if a combination of both are used.

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP, DTaP): a pupil seven (7) years of age or older needs at least three (3) doses of DTP vaccine given as any combination of DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td. Pertussis vaccine is not required for pupils who are 7 years of age or older. Children younger than 7, who have received DT but not pertussis, need the appropriate **exemption form** completed for pertussis.

Td: Prior to entering the 7th grade (for the 2006-2007 school year, and thereafter) a pupil must receive a dose of Td containing vaccine and have met the following criteria: (1) At least a 5 year interval must have passed since the pupil's previous doses of DTP/DTaP, DT or Td. (2) after the age of 11 years or, (3) if dose number 3 of Td is given at 7 years of age or older a booster dose 5 years later is not required.

Measles, mumps or rubella: Date given must be on or after the first birthday. A **second dose is required at school entry**, and is required at 7th grade if the pupil did not receive a second dose prior to kindergarten or 1st grade in schools without kindergarten.

Immunization records, recorded on the "Blue form", must show month, day and year. Beginning with pupils entering a Montana school for the first time during or after the 2005-2006 school year, a copy of the adequate documentation must be attached to the "Blue form", (HES-101)

If a child has not completed the minimum vaccination series required by Montana Law, a Conditional Attendance Form, No. HES 103-B, should be completed and attached to the Blue immunization Form (HES-101). If the pupil has received at least one or more doses of the required vaccine(s), he/she can conditionally attend until the next dose is due. In order to remain in school, the pupil must continue to receive all remaining doses as specified on the conditional form. If the pupil fails to complete the immunization(s) within the time period indicated, he/she must either qualify for and claim an exemption or be excluded immediately from school by the school administrator or that person's designee.

The school law allows exemptions for medical reasons. For medical contraindications, parents need to have the back of the blue immunization form (HES-101) completed and signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States or Canada, (MD or DO) specifying the reason and duration of the medical exemption. See the accompanying "Medical Exemption for Required Immunizations" sheet for qualifying physician information. Consult with your local public health nurse or the state Immunization Program if you have questions about this exemption.

The law also allows for exemptions, if immunizations are contrary to the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian. A claim of exemption on religious grounds must be notarized each year on an affidavit provided by the department.